WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for actively assisting a motor vehicle driver in a motor vehicle, wherein automatic assistance in the communication between the motor vehicle driver and the vehicle system is given by at least one control unit and an input and display unit (5).

2. The method for active assistance as recited in Claim 1, wherein context-specific and/or preference-specific input options (2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12) are offered to the motor vehicle driver, which are automatically executed after being selected by the motor vehicle driver.

3. The method for active assistance as recited in Claim 1 or 2, the control unit being able to access the data of sensors and control units relevant to the condition of the vehicle, and transmit control commands to the control units as well as to devices for external communication; comprising the following method steps:

   a) detection of a critical vehicle condition by the control unit, by evaluating the data of the sensors and control units relevant to the vehicle;

   b) generation of a list of possible actions for the motor vehicle driver in response to the critical vehicle condition detected;

   c) display of the detected, critical vehicle condition and the possible actions of the motor vehicle driver, on the display unit; and

   d) execution of the action selected by the motor vehicle driver, using the control unit.

4. The method for active assistance as recited in Claim 1 or 2, the control unit being able to access the data of comfort control units, and transmit control commands to

the comfort devices; comprising the following method
steps:

a) manual activation of the method by the motor vehicle
driver;

b) display of an input prompt on the display unit (5),
as to which comfort setting should be changed;

c) context-sensitive and preference-sensitive compiling
of the operational settings and/or control elements
relevant to the input, on the display unit, using
the control unit; and

d) execution of the inputted control commands.

5. The device for active assistance as recited in Claim 1 or
2, the control unit being able to access an internal
and/or external database, comprising the following method
steps:

a) manual activation of the method by the motor vehicle
driver;

b) display of a list (7) of possible recommendations on
the display unit;

c) execution of a context-sensitive and/or preference-
sensitive interrogation dialog to ascertain the
driver command;

d) display of the possible actions, which may be
carried out for the ascertained driver command; and

e) execution of the action selected by the motor
vehicle driver, using the control unit.

6. A device for actively assisting a motor vehicle driver in
a motor vehicle, comprising at least one control unit and
an input and display unit (5), conditions critical to the
vehicle being detectable and displayable on the display
unit (5), along with assisting messages, which may be
automatically carried out after being selected; and,
using the input unit, further comfort options being

retrievable, which may be selected and executed in a dialog mode.

7. The device as recited in the Claim 6,
   wherein the input options (2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12) displayed on the display unit (5) may be represented by the control unit in a context-specific and/or preference-specific manner.

8. The device as recited in Claim 6 or 7,
   wherein the control unit is connected to other control units of the motor vehicle by a CAN bus.

9. The device as recited in one of Claims 6 through 8,
   wherein the display unit (5) takes the form of a touch screen.

10. The device as recited in one of Claims 6 through 9,
    wherein the input unit takes the form of a voice-recognition unit and/or a bidirectional, rotary pressure transducer.